Killings of Amarnath Yatris

1856. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some pilgrims on their visit to Amarnath were killed by terrorists as reported in the newspapers on 22nd July, 2001;

(b) if so, facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the various security agencies have failed to provide adequate security to the pilgrims visiting Amarnath;

(d) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed on such lapses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of compensation paid to the next of the kin killed and the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In a terrorist attack on the Amarnath Yatris at Sheshnag Camp, Anantnag on 21st July 2001, 6 pilgrims were killed and 8 others injured.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) As per the norms of State Government, Ex-gratia relief of Rs. 1.00 taken to next of kin's (NoK's) of each deceased civilians has been sanctioned. This amount is reimbursed to the State Government under Security Related Expenditure Grants from MHA.

The security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra were strengthened this year in the light of past experience and inputs regarding the designs of the terrorists with the arrangements have been planned out after a series of high-level meetings. The quantum of

security forces deployed for Yatra security this time was higher than last year. The functional and territorial jurisdictions and tasks of various forces and units as regards area domination and presence on the heights along the route, road opening parties (RoPs), escort duty, camp security, access control and manning of check posts, anti-sabotage checks etc. had been fixed in advance by the State Government. For the better coordination and planning of security arrangements for the Yatra 2001, an apex body was formed by State Government consisting of all members of the Core Group of UHQ at Srinagar with Chief Executive Officer, Shrine Board and concerned DIGs and Brigadiers as special invitees. Security coordination groups for the Yatra had also been constituted at lower levels.

Government has reviewed the security measures in consultation with the State Government with a view to strengthen the renewed security arrangements for test of the Amarnath Yatra Period.

Special Police Officers in Delhi Police

1857. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Police Officers at present working with the Delhi Police; and

(b) whether Special Police Officers are appointed for life or they have a fixed tenure and the conditions of their appointment including the privileges available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The number of Special Police Officers at present associated with Delhi Police is 979.

(b) The appointment as SPOs in Delhi Police is made for a period of one year. Any able bodied person who has attained the age of 18 years can be appointed as a SPO, if he enjoys a good reputation and is able to assist the police in maintaining Law and Order. Every Special Police Officer on appointment receives a certificate of appointment and an identity card.